

Appl. No. : 09/817,535
Filed : March 26, 2001

CLAIMS AS PRESENTLY PENDING

Although no amendments to the claims have been made in this response to the present office action, a complete set of claims, as presently pending, is listed below for the convenience of the examiner.

1. (previously amended) A computer-assisted method of facilitating a transfer of purchases to consumers, the method comprising:

on a computer system, for each of a plurality of consumers, associating a plurality of items ordered by the consumer from a plurality of merchants;

for each consumer, receiving the associated items at a single geographic location; and

for each consumer, based at least on the association of the items on the computer system, physically aggregating the items at the location; and

for each consumer, transferring the aggregated items to the consumer.

2. (previously amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein each of the purchased items is a product or comprises one or more products.

3. (previously amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising

on the computer system, for each consumer, receiving notification of a pending delivery of at least one of the items to the location.

4. (previously amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising

using the computer system, for each consumer, notifying the consumer that some or all of the plurality of items have been received at the location.

5. (canceled)

6. (previously amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein transferring the aggregated items to the consumer comprises sending the items to the consumer from the location.

7. (previously amended) A computer-assisted method of facilitating the transfer of products to consumers, the method comprising:

on a computer system, identifying a plurality of consumers and for each consumer:

for each of a plurality of merchants, identifying an item purchased by the consumer from the merchant;

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presenting to the consumer a set of at least one predetermined geographic locations from which set the consumer is prompted to make a selection;

receiving from the consumer a selection of a geographic location from the set; and

identifying a geographic location; and

for each of the merchants, providing to the merchant instructions to send the item to the selected geographic location.

8. (previously amended) The method of Claim 7, wherein each of the purchased items is a product or comprises one or more products.

9. (previously amended) The method of Claim 7, wherein the selected location is an order aggregation site.

10. (previously amended) The method of Claim 9, further comprising providing an identification of the items to the order aggregation site.

11. (previously amended) The method of Claim 9, further comprising instructing the order aggregation site to aggregate the items.

12. (original) The method of Claim 11, further comprising instructing the order aggregation site to transfer the aggregated items to the consumer.

13. (original) The method of Claim 11, further comprising instructing the order aggregation site to deliver the aggregated items to the consumer.

14. (original) The method of Claim 11, further comprising instructing a delivery service to pick up the aggregated items at the order aggregation site and to deliver the aggregated items to the consumer.

15. (canceled)

16. (previously amended) The method of Claim 7, further comprising instructing the consumer to receive the items at the selected location.

17. (original) The method of Claim 16, further comprising receiving from the consumer, an identification of a time at which the consumer will expect to receive the items.

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18. (previously amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising, for each consumer:

- presenting to the consumer at least one geographic location at which the consumer can receive the items;
- obtaining from the consumer a selection of one of the locations; and
- notifying the merchants of the identity of the location selected by the consumer.

19. (previously added) The method of Claim 1, wherein the location comprises:

- a set of temporary bulk storage facilities that provide a selection of appropriate environments to temporarily store products;
- an order aggregation facility where products picked from the temporary bulk storage facilities can be physically aggregated;
- loading and unloading docks for trucks to deliver and pick up shipments;
- a recipient vehicle loading and unloading facility for transferring items to consumers;
- a communications system configured to electronically communicate with merchants and consumers; and
- a computing system configured to coordinate transfers of items from merchants to consumers.